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72-4180

27 July 1972

DDI 8116-72

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans  
Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Director of National Estimates

SUBJECT: Country Seminars

1. In a recent conversation I was reminded that the expertise in the Agency on various countries is considerable, but that it is frequently compartmented so that our synergistic potential is not realized. Our analysts gather all material available in written form and add to this by informal contact with a variety of individuals with personal experience in the area. The suggestion was that they might be assisted by a somewhat more formal system of ensuring their access to the expertise available in the Agency from people who have served in these countries.

2. Thus, the suggestion was that we organize occasional seminars on specified countries. A seminar on India, for example, might include representatives of OCI, OER, ONE, DDP/NE, CRS [redacted] and others who might be concerned. The purpose would be an interchange of ideas and appreciation among different individuals focusing on the same topic.

3. An agenda for such a seminar should be generated in advance so that its Chairman could maintain control and ensure that it focused on matters of importance. It could include a general review of reporting on the country, recent events, significant political developments [redacted] and a projection of likely developments in the country in the near term. Obviously, such a seminar should not involve too many people in order to encourage informal exchange, and no attempt should be made to come to hard-and-fast decisions nor to expect the individuals to speak only as officially authorized by their office. The discussion should be on the

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substance of developments in the country and avoid operational activities or recommendations for U.S. policy or action. Such a seminar might be conducted in the building [redacted]

[redacted] A classification level should be established, probably at the Secret level, so that there need be no confusion or concern about revelation of particularly sensitive material. After an experience with an internal CIA activity of this nature, it might be appropriate to broaden participation to include other members of the intelligence community, although this would have to be looked at with due deference to security and bureaucratic implications.

4. I realize that a certain amount of this goes on in any case. What I am suggesting is a somewhat greater institutionalization in order to increase informal exchange and discussion of our target areas. I would appreciate your review and comments on this possibility. The autumn would appear to be a useful time to do this to catch recent returnees [redacted]

W. E. Colby

Executive Director-Comptroller

cc: DD/S&T  
DD/S

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<b>TRANSMITTAL SLIP</b>		DATE	31 Jul 72
TO: D/OBGI <i>RJA</i>			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
REMARKS:			
<p>We would appreciate your comments on this proposal by 16 August.</p>			
FROM:		O/DDI	
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
7E44	Hqs.		
FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55		REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)	

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